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REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES*

(covering its work during 1990)

Rapporteur: Mr. Mohammed Najdat SHAHEED (Syrian Arab Republic)

CHAPTER XI

NAMIBIA

* This document contains chapter XI of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. The general introductory chapter will be issued under the symbol A/45/23 (Part I). Other chapters of the report will be issued under the symbol A/45/23 (Parts II-VII). The complete report will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/45/23).

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CHAPTER XI

NAMIBIA*

1. On 22 December 1988, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba signed an Agreement; 1/ also, the People's Republic of Angola, the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of South Africa signed an Agreement. 2/ On 16 January 1989, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 629 (1989), by which the Council decided, inter alia, that 1 April 1989 should be the date on which implementation of its resolution 435 (1978) of 29 September 1978 would begin; requested the Secretary-General to proceed to arrange a formal cease-fire between the South West Africa People's Organization and South Africa; called upon South Africa to reduce immediately and substantially the existing police forces in Namibia with a view to achieving reasonable balance between those forces and the United Nations Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) so as to ensure effective monitoring by the latter; and reaffirmed the responsibility of all concerned to co-operate to ensure the impartial implementation of the settlement plan in accordance with Council resolution 435 (1978).

2. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 629 (1989) and Council resolution 632 (1989) of 16 February 1989, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Namibia arrived in Windhoek on 31 March 1989 to head UNTAG which would supervise and control free and fair elections in Namibia on the basis of Council resolution 435 (1978). Elections for a Constituent Assembly of 72 members were held in Namibia from 7 to 11 November 1989. Accordingly, the people of Namibia exercised their inalienable right to self-determination by choosing their representatives to a Constituent Assembly, which was charged with drafting a constitution for an independent Namibia. Pursuant to that process, Namibia was granted independence on 21 March 1990.

3. At the invitation of Mr. Sam Nujoma, then President-elect of the Republic of Namibia, the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with Regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples attended, on 21 March, the official ceremony marking the independence of Namibia. On that historic occasion, the Chairman extended to the Government and people of the Republic of Namibia the Special Committee's warmest congratulations and most sincere wishes for happiness, peace and prosperity in the coming years. That occasion represented for the Special Committee, which had followed closely and constantly the progress towards self-determination and independence of that country, the successful discharge of the important responsibility entrusted to it by the General Assembly.

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* Namibia acceded to independence on 21 March 1990 as the Republic of Namibia.

4. On 23 April 1990, at the 1st plenary meeting of its eighteenth special session, the General Assembly adopted resolution S-18/1 by which the Republic of Namibia was admitted to membership in the United Nations. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made a statement (A/S-18/PV.1).

5. The General Assembly considered the question of Namibia at its 96th plenary meeting, on 11 September 1990, at which time the Chairman of the Special Committee made a statement (A/44/PV.96). At the same meeting, by adopting resolution 44/243, the Assembly dissolved the United Nations Council for Namibia and the agenda item on the question of Namibia was deleted from the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

Notes

1/ S/20345, annex.

2/ A/43/989-S/20346, annex.

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